AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 104 through 107 as follows:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 104, further comprising a reproducer arranged to reproduce the display image generated by said synthesizer.

15 - 101. (Cancelled)

102. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 104, wherein the user layout further effects a change in audio output format.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving a television program, comprising:

a receiver, arranged to receive a bit stream broadcasted as the television program, wherein the bit stream ~~is~~ comprises multiplexed ~~first~~ encoded image data ~~encoded by a first coding format, second image data encoded by a second coding format,~~ and encoded system data;

a data demultiplexer, arranged to demultiplex the bit stream to the encoded image data and the encoded system data;

~~a first~~ an image decoder, arranged to decode the ~~first~~ encoded image data demultiplexed by said data demultiplexer to generate ~~a first image~~ plural images;

~~a second decoder, arranged to decode the second image data to generate a second image;~~

a ~~third~~ system data decoder, arranged to decode the encoded system data demultiplexed by said data demultiplexer;

a detector, arranged to detect at least a basic layout depending on the television program, a program ID of the television program which is in the midst of being received, and a character command, from the decoded system data, wherein the character command indicates generation of a character image ~~and a layout of the character image,~~ and wherein the program ID is uniquely specified for each television program;

a character generator, arranged to generate a character image indicated by the detected character command using internal character data;

a layout changer, arranged to customize a user layout for displaying the generated plural images and the generated character image in accordance with a user instruction;

a layout setter, arranged to ~~set a~~ register the user layout, ~~to display images represented~~ which is customized by ~~the first image~~ said layout changer, ~~the second image, and the character image~~ corresponding to the program ID;

a storage, arranged to store a plurality of user layout data, each of which represents ~~corresponds to the~~ a registered user layout, registered by said layout setter, ~~set by said setter, corresponding to~~ by indicating a position of displaying each image, ~~the~~ and each of which corresponds to a respective program ID;

a determiner, arranged to determine whether or not the detected program ID ~~detected by said detector~~ is coincident with ~~a registered~~ the program ID corresponding to the stored user layout data ~~stored in said storage~~; and

a synthesizer, arranged to synthesize the generated plural images ~~first image, the second image,~~ and the generated character image based on the user layout data read out from said storage in accordance with the detected program ID when said determiner determines that the ~~detected and registered~~ program IDs are coincident, and to synthesize those images based on the basic layout ~~and the character command detected by said detector~~ when said determiner determines that the ~~detected and registered~~ program IDs are not coincident, so that a display image of the television program is generated.

105. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said layout changer ~~setter sets~~ customizes a position and/or size of displaying the generated plural images ~~the first image, the second image~~ and the generated character image individually.

106. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving a television program, comprising the steps of:

receiving a bit stream broadcasted as the television program, wherein the bit stream ~~is~~ comprises multiplexed ~~first~~ encoded image data ~~encoded by a first coding format, second image data encoded by a second coding format,~~ and encoded system data;

demultiplexing the bit stream to the encoded image data and the encoded system data;

decoding the ~~first~~ encoded image data demultiplexed in the demultiplexing step to generate ~~a first image~~ plural images;

~~decoding the second image data to generate a second image;~~

decoding the encoded system data demultiplexed in the demultiplexing step;

detecting at least a basic layout depending on the television program, a program ID of the television program which is in the midst of being received, and a character command, from the decoded system data, wherein the character command indicates generation of a character image ~~and a layout of the character image,~~ and wherein the program ID is uniquely specified for each television program;

generating a character image indicated by the detected character command using internal character data;

customizing a user layout for displaying the generated plural images and the generated character image in accordance with a user instruction;

registering the ~~setting a~~ user layout, ~~to display images represented by the first image, the second image and the character image~~ which is customized in the customizing step, corresponding to the program ID;

storing user layout data to a memory, wherein the memory stores a plurality of the user layout data, each of which represents ~~corresponds to~~ the ~~set~~ a registered user layout, registered in said registering step, by indicating a position of displaying each image, ~~corresponding to the~~ and each of which corresponds to a respective program ID ~~to a memory~~;

determining whether or not the detected program ID is coincident with ~~a registered~~ the program ID corresponding to the stored user layout data ~~stored in the memory~~; and

synthesizing the generated images ~~first image, the second image~~ and the generated character image based on the user layout data read out from the memory in accordance with the detected program ID when the determining step determines that the ~~detected and registered~~ program IDs are coincident, and synthesizing those images based on the basic layout ~~and the character command detected in the detecting step~~ when the determining step determines that the ~~detected and registered~~ program IDs are not coincident, so that a display image of the television program is generated.

107. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable program stored ~~on~~ in a computer-readable storage medium comprising program code causing a computer to perform a method of receiving a television program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a bit stream broadcasted as the television program, wherein the bit stream ~~is~~ comprises multiplexed ~~first~~ encoded image data ~~encoded by a first coding format, second image data encoded by a second coding format,~~ and encoded system data;

demultiplexing the bit stream to the encoded image data and the encoded system data;

decoding the ~~first~~ encoded image data demultiplexed in the demultiplexing step to generate ~~a first image~~ plural images;

~~decoding the second image data to generate a second image;~~

decoding the encoded system data demultiplexed in the demultiplexing step;

detecting at least a basic layout depending on the television program, a program ID of the television program which is in the midst of being received, and a character command, from the decoded system data, wherein the character command indicates generation of a character image ~~and a layout of the character image,~~ and wherein the program ID is uniquely specified for each television program;

generating a character image indicated by the detected character command using internal character data;

customizing a user layout for displaying the generated plural images and the generated character image in accordance with user instruction;

registering the ~~setting a~~ user layout, ~~to display images represented by the first image, the second image and the character image~~ which is customized in the customizing step, corresponding to the program ID;

storing user layout data to a memory, wherein the memory stores a plurality of the user layout data, each of which represents ~~corresponds to the set~~ a registered user layout, registered in said registering step, by indicating a position of displaying each image,

~~corresponding to the~~ and each of which corresponds to a respective program ID ~~to a memory~~;

determining whether or not the detected program ID is coincident with ~~a registered~~ the program ID corresponding to the stored user layout data ~~stored in the memory~~; and

synthesizing the generated images ~~first image, the second image~~ and the generated character image based on the user layout data read out from the memory in accordance with the detected program ID when the determining step determines that the ~~detected and registered~~ program IDs are coincident, and synthesizing those images based on the basic layout ~~and the character command detected in the detecting step~~ when the determining step determines that the ~~detected and registered~~ program IDs are not coincident, so that a display image of the television program is generated.